

**Abstract**

The present invention relates to methods and reagents useful for inhibition of apoptosis. Specifically, the invention relates to methods to identify agents that is either pro-apoptotic or anti-apoptotic, especially by affecting the signal transduction pathways of BAK protein and/or M11L protein. The invention also provides business methods, diagnostic kits for identification of pro- or anti-apoptotic agents. Another aspect of the invention provides a method to identify M11L-interacting polypeptides using mass spectrometry.